

October 4, 1958

Mr. John Foster Dulles  
Secretary of State  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Dulles;

Preferential accord of greater recognition by the West to Red China than to the USSR might create useful friction between these two powers. It is the most aggressive idea I have heard to reverse Communist expansion.

Steps to build Red Chinese independence of Russia would include free trade in non-war materiel with mainland China and probable eventual recognition of Red China. What are the pitfalls that might cause an opposite result?

A business acquaintance with some social contacts among Nationalist Chinese in this country voiced the idea. He bolsters it with comment on Chinese pride, or "face," that equals ego nationally.

Already, according to a British journalist writing in the New York Herald-Tribune, the Chinese regard themselves as purer Marxists, or Stalinists, than the current Russian regime. Thus Mao censures Russian actions and Russia makes concessions to Mao.

Perhaps we can encourage this intra-Red squabble into a self-consuming struggle between Russian and Red China. If effective, it would save the West a vicious war that now seems certain to come. As well, inversion of the Reds'

energies might slow their expansion to a halt and, at best, bring about a gradual conversion of both Red powers to governments more human and compatible with our democratic views.

Very truly yours,

Philip B. Coan

PC

CC: A.W. Dulles